Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, US, SZ

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: FTC/NESTLE CASE

REF: A) BERN 2160; B) BERN 2318

- 1. FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC) HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT FTC CHAIRMAN ENGMAN MET SEPTEMBER 5 WITH NESTLE CHAIRMAN LIOTARD-VOGT, NESTLE GENERAL COUNSEL, AND THEIR U.S. LAWYERS.
- 2. FTC CHAIRMAN INFORMED NESTLE OFFICIALS THAT THE COMMISSION DOES NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT CONCERNING NESTLE'S ACQUISITION OF LIBBY, MCNEILL, 7 & LIBBY. FTC HAS MADE NO DECISION CONCERNING NESTLE ACQUISITION OF STOUFFER, AND FTC CONFIRMED THAT NESTLE WILL STILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS CASE IN DETAIL TO JAMES T. HALVERSON, DIRECTOR OF COMPETITION, BEFORE FTC REACHES DECISION ON THAT MATTER. THUS, FTC HAS GIVEN NESTLE FULL SATISFACTION CONCERNING LIBBY ACQUISITION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HAS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO NESTLE'S APPEALS IN EARLY

JUNE FOR A DELAY WHILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS ON THE STOUFFER ACQUISITION WERE COLLECTED (REF B).

3. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GOS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, POINTING OUT THAT FTC ACTION IS FULLY RESPONSIVE TO JACOBI'S SUGGESTION REPORTED PARA 2 REF A. MOREOVER,

FTC DECISION RE LIBBY AND ITS HANDLING OF STOUFFER MATTER DEMONSTRATE CLEARLY THAT SWISS FIRMS RECEIVE FAIR, EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT UNDER U.S. LAW. INDEED, SEPTEMBER 5 MEETING WAS INDICATION OF STRONG USG EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT NESTLE WAS NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE IT WAS A FOREIGN OR SWISS FIRM.

4. SWISS EMBASSY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EXCHAQUET HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: TRADE PROMOTION, BUSINESS MERGERS, COURTS, INVESTIGATIONS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

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